

umbilical region somewhat calloused, the place of the umbilicus marked by a moderately sunken pit, surrounded by a weak spiral rib which terminates in a faint denticle at the junction of the columellar and basal margins of the peristome. Alt. 14, diam.  $16\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

Beagle Channel, Patagonia (Dr. H. von Ihering).

This species (No. 1020 of von Ihering's register) is obviously unlike the forms of eastern Patagonia, and there is nothing like it in Mabilie and Rochebrune's work on Cape Horn mollusks. Of the Chilean species, it is allied only to *C. fuscescens* Phil.,\* but in *C. Orbignyana* the whorls are more convex, the prevailing color black, and it is imperforate.

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#### ON A COLLECTION OF FRESH-WATER SHELLS FROM RHODE ISLAND.

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BY FRANK C. BAKER.

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During the month of July, 1899, the writer made a collection of marine and fresh-water shells in the state of Rhode Island, and a list of the fresh-water species may be of interest. Collections were made at the following places:

1. Nayatt, R. I. A small pond between the railroad depot and the bay. The bottom is made up of soft, black, carbonaceous mud, and the shores are lined with dead leaves and twigs.

2. Newport, R. I. Bailey's Pond, near Bailey's Beach. A pond of good size and considerable depth, bordered by cat-tails.

3. Providence, R. I. Cat Swamp. A small clear stream, flowing through a flag-swamp. The numbers after the species indicate the above localities.

*Calyculina partumeia* Say. 1, 2. Common.

*Calyculina truncata* Linsley. 1. Common.

*Calyculina securis* Prime. 2. Not common.

*Pisidium*, near *abditum*, but possibly *P. lens* Sterki. 1. Common.

*Pisidium splendidulum* Sterki. 1, 2. Not common.

*Linnæa palustris* Müller. 3. Common.

*Planorbis trivolvis* Say. 2, 3. Common.

*Planorbis deflectus* Say. 1. Common.

*Planorbis parvus* Say. 1, 2, 3. Common.

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\* Conchylien Cabinet, *Trochus*, p. 182; Man. of Conch., XI., *Trochidæ*, p. 181.

*Segmentina armigera* Say. 1, 2. Common.

*Physa heterostropha* Say. 1, 2, 3. Common.

*Aplexa hypnorum* Linné. 2. Common.

*Campeloma decisum* Say. 1. Apparently not common.

My thanks are due to Dr. V. Sterki for determining the *Pisidia*.

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JOHN H. THOMSON, PH. D.

The subject of this memoir was born in Westport in 1824, and died in the city of New Bedford, Mass. (but a few miles from his birth-place), July, 1896, aged 71. He had the usual public school and academic education of the time. In early life, like so many New England coast town boys, he took to the sea, and soon reached the post of master. He spent some years in California and South America, and returning to New Bedford, he settled there for life. He developed an early fondness for natural history, and in this, finally narrowed down to the science of conchology. He at once became fascinated with the subject, and spared no time, pains, or money in his enthusiastic determination to master his subject. He was fortunate at this juncture to fall into the hands of so capable and sympathetic an instructor as Dr. Augustus A. Gould, to whom he ever felt grateful for giving him a fuller and clearer insight into the delicate minutiae, so essential in describing many species and varieties of shells. By this association he was greatly aided and stimulated in his subsequent pursuit and study. He soon became known as a most conscientious and reliable student of conchology, and soon made many friends; his correspondents were among the most noted of his time, in both hemispheres. He obtained and carefully studied the works of the leading conchological authorities, without regard to price, although he was never a rich man.

As a collector, his success in securing species from remote parts was really phenomenal. He sold his earliest and largest collection, during the Franco-Prussian war, to an institution, I think, in Belgium, but through the misfortunes of war it was in some manner confiscated, and so the purchaser lost his prize. His later and last collection is owned by the writer of this article. Among the many societies of which Dr. Thomson was a member, two stand pre-eminently conspicuous, The Zoölogical Society of London and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. I am credibly in-